Professor Wolfgang Kohler's views are of great importance, since he leads the *Gestalt* school in its endeavours to find physical explanations of all mental activities. He has given in barest outline a suggestion as to how the same physical principle may possibly be applied to the great biological problems of morphogenesis and organic regulation in general And many biologists who still hope to find physical explanations of all vital events but who can see no prospect of progress towards this promised land along any other line, have welcomed Kohler and his *Gestalt* principle. They have turned to him and his slogan *Gestalt* as to a new Moses who shall deliver them out of their wilderness. Hearing of *Gestalt* as a new principle that is proving itself a universal solvent in psychology, and without being qualified to judge of the genuineness of these triumphs, they nevertheless turn hopefully towards it as a last resort. It is therefore important that we make clear just how far Kohler has gone in this direction.

In a famous article of 1924 on the problem of regulation, Kohler has pointed to one possibility of explaining in physical terms all the directed or goal-seeking activities of living things. He defines[£] regulation' as a property of any system which returns to a given end-state of equilibrium through many different routes after varied disturbances of its equilibrium. Clearly all the goal-seeking activities of organisms fall under this head. He then asks : Does regulation, as thus defined, occur in any inorganic systems ? And

is there any physical law which is expressed in such systems ? To both questions he returns a positive answer. He denies that the second law of thermodynamics, the law of entropy, can account for such regulative activities, as many biologists have supposed. But, he says, there is